

# The 'Pick List'

**Choosing an Employment Provider  
in Lake County**

**2016**



**Indiana Vocational  
Rehabilitation Services**

# How to Use This List

As a client of Indiana Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VR), you are now a part of a team focused on your employment goals. VR has a list of employment service providers located throughout the state. These providers will help you achieve your goals by giving you the supports and services you need—things like help with writing a resume, filling out applications, or on-the-job coaching.

Now that your counselor has determined you are eligible for services, you have the opportunity to select an employment provider in your area. On the following pages, you’ll find the employment providers in your county along with their contact information and a list of services they offer.

Be sure to ask your VR counselor if you don’t know what some of the services are. The services you need will depend on your goals. You may not need all of the services you see listed on the chart.

We encourage you to contact each of the providers on this list. You can call them, set up a meeting, or send an email. Tell them you are a VR client and you would like to talk with them about the services they offer. Take notes so you can compare providers and choose the one that’s right for you. It’s important to select the provider you feel most comfortable working with and the one that you think can best help you meet your goals.

Once you’ve chosen an employment provider, tell your VR counselor. She/he will get things started for you.

**Any questions? Ask your VR counselor!**

My VR Counselor	
Name	
Phone	
Email	

# Lake County Provider Contact Info

Address	Contact	Individuals Served	
<b>Child Adult Resource Services, Inc. (C.A.R.S.)</b> Main Office & Service Site Location: 210 North Dormeyer Avenue Rockville, IN 47872	1) Carrie Kline (765) 337-1506 ckline@cars-services.org  2) Jeff Uhey (765) 569-2076 juhey@cars-services.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deaf</li> <li>• Blind</li> <li>• Developmentally Disabled</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traumatic Brain Injury</li> <li>• Mental Illness</li> </ul>
*Provider serves all 92 counties with other service sites in the following counties: Clay, Delaware, Howard, Knox, Marion, Montgomery, Putnam, Tippecanoe, Vanderburgh, and Vigo.			
<b>Globe Star, LLC</b> Main Office & Service Site Location: 621 Broadway Chesterton, IN 46304	John Kremke (219) 921-5492 Ext. 5 jkremke@globe-star.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deaf</li> <li>• Blind</li> <li>• Developmentally Disabled</li> <li>• Traumatic Brain Injury</li> <li>• Mental Illness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alcohol/Drug Substance Abuse</li> <li>• Unemployed/Underemployed</li> <li>• Physical Disabilities</li> </ul>
*Provider serves all 92 counties with other service sites in the following counties: Kosciusko, Marion, Porter, and St. Joseph.			
<b>Goodwill Industries of Michiana, Inc.</b> Main Office & Service Site Location: 1805 Western Ave. South Bend, IN 46619  Service Site Location: 1845 West Ridge Rd. Gary, IN 46404	Pam Connors (219) 808-2721 pconnors@goodwill-ni.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deaf</li> <li>• Blind</li> <li>• Developmentally Disabled</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traumatic Brain Injury</li> <li>• Mental Illness</li> <li>• Alcohol/Drug Substance Abuse</li> </ul>
*Provider serves 8 counties with other service sites in the following counties: Elkhart, LaPorte, and St. Joseph.			
<b>Heartland Employment Services</b> Main Office & Service Site Location: 5053 Norway Rd. Monticello, IN 47960	Pat Wokoun (574) 583-8227 Ext. 216 pwokoun@cdcreources.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deaf</li> <li>• Developmentally Disabled</li> <li>• Transition-Age Students</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blind</li> <li>• Traumatic Brain Injury</li> <li>• Mental Illness</li> <li>• Chronic Illness</li> </ul>
*Provider serves 16 counties with other service sites in the following counties: Jasper and White.			
<b>Indiana Mentor</b> Main Office & Service Site Location: 8925 N. Meridian St., Ste. 200 Indianapolis, IN 46260  Service Site Location: 101 W. 79th Ave. Merrillville, IN 46410	Chrissie Beik (317) 208-7733 Christine.beik@thementornetwork.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deaf</li> <li>• Blind</li> <li>• Developmentally Disabled</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transition-Age Students</li> <li>• Traumatic Brain Injury</li> <li>• Mental Illness</li> </ul>
*Provider serves all 92 counties with other service sites in the following counties: Allen, Jackson, Lawrence, Miami, Monroe, St. Joseph, and Tippecanoe.			

Address	Contact	Individuals Served	
<b>Opportunity Enterprises, Inc.</b> Main Office & Service Site Location: 2801 Evans Avenue Valparaiso, IN 46383  Service Site Location: 8004 Tyler St. Merrillville, IN 46410  *Provider serves 7 counties with other service sites in the following counties: LaPorte and Porter.	Kathleen Parks Savich (219) 464-9621 Ext. 213 kathleen.savich@oppent.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deaf</li> <li>• Blind</li> <li>• Developmentally Disabled</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traumatic Brain Injury</li> <li>• Mental Illness</li> <li>• Assistive Technology</li> </ul>
<b>Planting Possibilities, Inc.</b> Main Office & Service Site Location: 1152 Bluebird Lane Munster, IN 46321  *Provider serves Lake county only.	Mark Neiner (219) 781-1148 admin@plantingpossibilites.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developmentally Disabled</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Autism</li> </ul>
<b>Regional Mental Health Center</b> Main Office & Service Site Location: 8555 Taft Street Merrillville, IN 46410  Service Site Location: 3903 Indianapolis Blvd. East Chicago, IN 46312  *Provider serves Lake county only.	Julie Peterson (219) 736-7278 julie.peterson@regionalmentalhealth.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental Illness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Substance Abuse</li> </ul>
<b>South Suburban Training &amp; Rehabilitation Services (SouthSTAR Services)</b> Main Office: 1005 West End Avenue Chicago Heights, IL 60411  Service Site Location: 833 W. Lincoln Hwy., Ste. 400 W. Schererville, IN 46375  *Provider serves 2 counties.	Kara Pierce (219) 440-7430 kpierce@southstarservices.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deaf</li> <li>• Blind</li> <li>• Developmentally Disabled</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traumatic Brain Injury</li> <li>• Mental Illness</li> </ul>

Address	Contact	Individuals Served	
<b>The ARC of Northwest Indiana</b> Main Office & Service Site Location: 2650 W. 35th Ave. Gary, IN 46408  Service Site Location: 9600 Kennedy Ave. Highland, IN 46322  Service Site Location: 550 Burrell Dr. Crown Point, IN 46307  Service Site Location: 2395 W. Old Bridge Road Hobart, IN 46342  *Provider serves 3 counties.	Margo Love-Surprise (219) 884-1138 Ext. 6354 mlove@arcnwi.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deaf</li> <li>• Blind</li> <li>• Developmentally Disabled</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traumatic Brain Injury</li> <li>• Mental Illness</li> <li>• Physical Disabilities</li> <li>• Veterans</li> <li>• Ex-Felons</li> </ul>
<b>TradeWinds Services, Inc.</b> Main Office & Service Site Location: 3198 E. 83rd Place Merrillville, IN 46410  *Provider serves 2 counties.	Vernita Macklin (219) 945-0100 Ext. 306 vmacklin@tradewindservices.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deaf</li> <li>• Blind</li> <li>• Developmentally Disabled</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transition-Age Students</li> <li>• Traumatic Brain Injury</li> <li>• Mental Illness</li> <li>• Specialized Childcare</li> </ul>
<b>Wabash Center, Inc.</b> Main Office & Service Site Location: 2000 Greenbush Street Lafayette, IN 47903  *Provider serves 18 counties with other service sites in the following county: Tippecanoe.	Pam Verberg (765) 423-5531 pverberg@wabashcenter.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deaf</li> <li>• Blind</li> <li>• Developmentally Disabled</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Postsecondary</li> <li>• Transition-Age Students</li> <li>• Traumatic Brain Injury</li> <li>• Mental Illness</li> </ul>

# Provider Employment Services

This chart lets you compare providers based on the services they offer.

## Additional Services Legend

AT – Assistive Technology

BIN – Benefits Information Network

TTW – Ticket to Work

Provider	Situational Assessment	Job Shadows	Vocational Assessment	Work Experience	Job Development/ Placement/ Retention	Job Readiness Training	On-the-Job Supports	Supported Employment	Additional Services
Child Adult Resource Services, Inc. (C.A.R.S.)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	BIN and TTW
Globe Star, LLC	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	BIN and TTW
Goodwill Industries of Michiana, Inc.	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	BIN and TTW
Heartland Employment Services	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	BIN
Indiana Mentor	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	BIN and TTW
Opportunity Enterprises, Inc.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	AT and BIN
Planting Possibilities, Inc.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Regional Mental Health Center	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
South Suburban Training & Rehabilitation Services (SouthSTAR Services)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	TTW
The ARC of Northwest Indiana	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	BIN and TTW
TradeWinds Services, Inc.		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	BIN and TTW
Wabash Center, Inc.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	BIN and TTW

# Glossary

## Assistive Technology

Any equipment, item, or technology used to improve function and capability.

## Benefits Information Network

A group of Indiana professionals who have been trained in and have knowledge of federal, state, and local benefits and work incentives. BIN liaisons understand the impact of income on long-term supports and services and can advise workers and families on how best to maintain employment while building more financial independence.

## Discovery

An opportunity to explore talents, interests, preferences, capabilities, and ideal work environment in order to identify an appropriate vocational goal. Specific Discovery activities vary based on individual need, but could include vocational testing, job shadowing, or career exploration.

## Home and Wheelchair Modification

Any change to a home or workplace environment that can help an employee get to work or access a job site. Examples could include widening a doorway or creating a keyboard tray for a wheelchair.

## Job Development/Placement/Retention

The process of working with an employer to either identify appropriate jobs and promote an individual with disabilities as a job candidate or help an individual keep a job.

## Job-Readiness Training

The process of assisting clients in identifying goals as well as training strategies designed to help an individual meet them.

## Job Shadowing

The opportunity to visit an employer in the community and observe different jobs.

## On-the-Job Supports

Supports provided in the workplace to help an employee learn and maintain a job. These include the use of a job coach or consultation with an employment specialist.

## Situational Assessments

Activities that give an employment provider the chance to observe an individual in a certain working environment or doing a specific job task.

## Supported Employment

Paid, community-based employment with ongoing supports that can help individuals learn tasks, be included, and keep their jobs.

## Ticket to Work

A free work incentive program from the Social Security Administration for some people with disabilities who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). Eligible individuals can assign their “ticket” (not a real paper ticket) to an employment network or to Indiana Vocational Rehabilitation Services for coordinating job search, placement, and retention services.

## Work Experiences

First-hand, work-based learning opportunities that can help determine individual interests and preferences.